

# **EXHIBIT A**

**BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT SECURITIES LLC**

In Liquidation

**DECEMBER 11, 2008<sup>1</sup>**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S DETERMINATION OF CLAIM**

October 19, 2009

MICHAEL EPSTEIN & JOAN B EPSTEIN J/T WROS  
1 Wainwright Place  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear MICHAEL EPSTEIN & JOAN B EPSTEIN J/T WROS:

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.**

The liquidation of the business of BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT SECURITIES LLC ("BLMIS") is being conducted by Irving H. Picard, Trustee under the Securities Investor Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aaa et seq. ("SIPA"), pursuant to an order entered on December 15, 2008 by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The Trustee has made the following determination regarding your claims on BLMIS Account No. 1ZB471 designated as Claim Number 005707, Claim Number 014631, and Claim Number 014632 (the latter two of which are duplicative of Claim Number 005707) and are combined ("Combined Claim") for purposes of this determination. This letter shall serve as the Trustee's determination with respect to the Combined Claim:

Your claim for securities is **DENIED**. No securities were ever purchased for your account.

Further, based on the Trustee's analysis, the amount of money you withdrew from your account at BLMIS (total of \$394,000.00), as more fully set forth in Table 1 annexed hereto and made a part

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<sup>1</sup> Section 78III(7)(B) of SIPA states that the filing date is "the date on which an application for a protective decree is filed under 78eee(a)(3)," except where the debtor is the subject of a proceeding pending before a United States court "in which a receiver, trustee, or liquidator for such debtor has been appointed and such proceeding was commenced before the date on which such application was filed, the term 'filing date' means the date on which such proceeding was commenced." Section 78III(7)(B). Thus, even though the Application for a protective decree was filed on December 15, 2008, the Filing Date in this action is on December 11, 2008.

hereof, is greater than the amount that was deposited with BLMIS for the purchase of securities (total of \$195,000.00). As noted, no securities were ever purchased by BLMIS for your account. Any and all profits reported to you by BLMIS on account statements were fictitious.

As reflected in Table 1, certain of the transfers into or out of your account have been adjusted. As part of the Trustee's analysis of accounts, the Trustee has assessed accounts based on a money in/money out analysis (i.e., has the investor deposited more or less than he or she withdrew from BLMIS). This analysis allows the Trustee to determine which part of an account's balance is originally invested principal and which part is fictitious gains that were fabricated by BLMIS. A customer's allowed claim is based on the amount of principal in the customer's account.

When ever a customer requested a transfer from one account to another, the Trustee analyzed whether the transferor account had principal in the account at the time of the transfer. The available principal in the account was transferred to and credited in the transferee account. Thus, the reason that the adjusted amount of transferred deposits in Table 1 is less than the purported transfer amount is that the transferor account did not have sufficient principal available to effectuate the full transfer. The difference between the purported transfer amount and the adjusted transfer amount is the amount of fictitious gain that was transferred to or from your account. Under the money in/money out analysis, the Trustee does not give credit for fictitious gains in settling your allowed claim.

Since there were no profits to use either to purchase securities or to pay you any money beyond the amount that was deposited into your BLMIS account, the amount of money you received in excess of the deposits in your account (\$199,000.00) was taken from other customers and given to you. Accordingly, because you have withdrawn more than was deposited into your account, you do not have a positive "net equity" in your account and you are not entitled to an allowed claim in the BLMIS liquidation proceeding. Therefore, your claim is **DENIED** in its entirety.

Should a final and unappealable court order determine that the Trustee is incorrect in his interpretation of "net equity" and its corresponding application to the determination of customer claims, the Trustee will be bound by that order and will apply it retroactively to all previously determined customer claims in accordance with the Court's order. Nothing in this Notice of Trustee's Determination of Claim shall be construed as a waiver of any rights or claims held by you in having your customer claim re-determined in accordance with any such Court order.

Nothing in this Notice of Trustee's Determination of Claim shall be construed as a waiver of any rights or claims held by the Trustee against you.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** If you disagree with this determination and desire a hearing before Bankruptcy Judge Burton R. Lifland, you **MUST** file your written opposition, setting forth the grounds for your disagreement, referencing Bankruptcy Case No. 08-1789 (BRL) and attaching copies of any documents in support of your position, with the United States Bankruptcy Court **and** the Trustee within **THIRTY DAYS** after October 19, 2009, the date on which the Trustee mailed this notice.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE:** If you do not properly and timely file a written opposition, the Trustee's determination with respect to your claim will be deemed confirmed by the Court and binding on you.

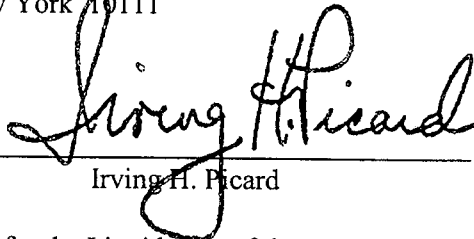
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE:** If you properly and timely file a written opposition, a hearing date for this controversy will be obtained by the Trustee and you will be notified of that hearing date. Your failure to appear personally or through counsel at such hearing will result in the Trustee's determination with respect to your claim being confirmed by the Court and binding on you.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE:** You must mail your opposition, if any, in accordance with the above procedure, to each of the following addresses:

Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for  
the Southern District of New York  
One Bowling Green  
New York, New York 10004

and

Irving H. Picard, Trustee  
c/o Baker & Hostetler LLP  
45 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10111

  
Irving H. Picard

Trustee for the Liquidation of the Business of  
Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC

DEPOSITS			
DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	ADJUSTED AMOUNT
5/1/2003	TRANS FROM 1ZA97230	\$661,263.81	\$170,000.00
7/26/2004	CHECK	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
<b>Total Deposits:</b>		\$686,263.81	\$195,000.00
WITHDRAWALS			
DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	ADJUSTED AMOUNT
8/26/2003	CHECK	(\$75,000.00)	(\$75,000.00)
10/25/2004	CHECK	(\$25,000.00)	(\$25,000.00)
4/27/2005	CHECK	(\$50,000.00)	(\$50,000.00)
6/9/2005	CHECK	(\$50,000.00)	(\$50,000.00)
8/11/2005	CHECK	(\$50,000.00)	(\$50,000.00)
11/22/2005	CHECK	(\$25,000.00)	(\$25,000.00)
5/19/2006	CHECK	(\$50,000.00)	(\$50,000.00)
7/14/2006	CHECK	(\$25,000.00)	(\$25,000.00)
11/22/2006	CHECK	(\$44,000.00)	(\$44,000.00)
<b>Total Withdrawals:</b>		(\$394,000.00)	(\$394,000.00)
<b>Total deposits less withdrawals:</b>		\$292,263.81	(\$199,000.00)